Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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P R 071740Z JAN 76 FM AMEMBASSY BONN TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5497 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, GW, US
SUBJ: CIVAIR: FRG RESTRICTIONS ON TRUCKING OF
AIR CARGO

REF: STATE 299576

1. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY FOLLOW-UP, FRG FONOFF
OFFICIAL JIRKA TOLD US JANUARY 6, THAT
EARLIEST FRG REPS COULD SCHEDULE CONSULTATIONS
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23 BECAUSE OF THEIR EXCEPTIONALLY
HEAVY NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE DURING FIRST TWO
MONTHS OF THE YEAR. AS WE EXPECTED, JIRKA SAID
THAT PRESENT FRG THINKING FAVORED EXPANDING THE
TALKS TO INCLUDE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL LANDING
RIGHTS IN THE U.S. FOR LUFTHANSA. FONOFF WAS
PRESENTLY PREPARING A MORE FORMAL EXPRESSION OF ITS
POSITION IN THIS REGARD, WHICH JIRKA SAID WE WOULD
BE RECEIVING IN SEVERAL DAYS. HE ADDED FRG FAVORED BONN
AS VENUE.

2. EMB CAA SAID THAT EMBASSY WOULD REPORT FRG'S PROPOSAL AND AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS AS TO DATE FOR CONSULTATIONS AND GERMAN DESIRE TO EXPAND COVERAGE OF THE TALKS. WE STRESSED AGAIN WITH JIRKA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO DEFERRING APPLICATION

OF TRUCKING RESTRICTIONS PUTTING PARTICULAR WEIGHT ON THE DIFFICULTIES WE WOULD ENCOUNTER IN ACHIEVING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION SHOULD THE FRG TAKE PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST SEABOARD OR PAA. JIRKA EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL SYMPATHY FOR THIS VIEW AND GAVE US TO UNDERSTAND HE WOULD EXERT WHATEVER PRESSURE HE COULD TO FORESTALL ANY WORSENING OF THE NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE. ECON/COM MINISTER ALSO MENTIONED OUR CONCERN ON THIS MATTER TO FONOFF ASSIS. SEC. LAUTENSCHLAGER DURING A RECENT DISCUSSION ON A WIDE RANGE OF ECONOMIC SUBJECTS.

3. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT PAA HAS RECENTLY BEEN ASKED TO JUSTIFY ITS CONTINUED TRUCKING OF CARGO FROM HAMBURG AND NUREMBERG. PAA DIRECTOR RUNNETTE INTENDS TO ARGUE THAT HE IS CORRECT IN CONTINUING THESE TRUCKING ACTIVITIES UNDER THE FMT'S INTERPRETATION OF 507B, BECAUSE OF PAA'S IGS RIGHTS TO HAMBURG, NUREMBERG. AND FRANKFURT. IN THE EVENT THAT FRG CONTESTS THIS APPROACH (WHICH SEEMS LIKELY), RUNNETTE ASKED IF USG WOULD SUPPORT PAA'S CONTENTION THAT ITS TRIANGULAR RIGHTS--HAMBURG/BERLIN/ FRANKFURT--QUALIFY THE CARRIER TO TRUCK AS IF IT HAD A HAMBURG/FRANKFURT SERVICE. (SIMILARLY, PAA IS TRUCKING DAILY BETWEEN DUESSELDORF AND FRANKFURT ON THE BASIS OF ONE WEEKLY TRANS-ATLANTIC CARGO SERVICE TO THE FORMER CITY.) IN LIGHT OF OUR BASIC POSITION OPPOSING THE FRG'S TRUCKING RESTRICTIONS. WE TOLD RUNNETTE WE WOULD SEE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN TACITLY ACCEPTING THE FRG MEASURE BY DISPUTING ITS INTERPRETATION. HE SAW THE POINT AND SAID HE WOULD CONTACT US AGAIN IF HE ENCOUNTERED FURTHER DIFFICULTY. IN THE MEANTIME, HE REQUESTED A DETAILED STATEMENT OF THE USG'S PRESENT POSITION.

4. IF THE DEPT HAS NO OBJECTIONS WE WOULD SUGGEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVIDING PAA WITH A COPY OF OUR MOST RECENT NOTE TO THE FRG. WE NOTE THE TEXT'S SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO "THE US ALL-CARGO CARRIER" BUT BELIEVE THERE IS A REASONABLE LIKELIHOOD THAT PAA COULD BE LIKEWISE AFFECTED.

ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT'S VIEWS ON PARAS 1 AND 4 ABOVE.

HILLENBRAND

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